

DINA TITUS  
3RD DISTRICT, NEVADA

319 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3252

8215 S. EASTERN AVENUE, SUITE 205  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89123  
(702) 387-4941

<http://titus.house.gov>

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND LABOR

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2803**

November 18, 2009

The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Secretary  
United States Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane, SW  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano,

Thank you for the work that you and the Obama Administration are doing to protect our country and improve our homeland security. I appreciate the new approach and perspective that you have brought to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

As you know, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Level Exercise 2010 (NLE 2010) is scheduled to be held in my Congressional District, specifically in Las Vegas. As described to me, this exercise would involve the simulated detonation of a nuclear device on or near the Las Vegas Strip. This exercise would test the readiness and response capabilities of many entities, from our local first responders in Las Vegas, our regional partners, to the President's cabinet, and the President himself. I believe these exercises are very important and offer a unique opportunity to increase our national preparedness from the bottom to the top. These exercises are important to ensure that our nation is ready for a wide array of emergency situation of all sizes.

As currently planned, this exercise will take place in my Congressional District and its impact will be felt throughout the Las Vegas Valley and the state of Nevada. I hope that this letter will be the start of an important dialogue on this subject. I have a number of concerns and I look forward to working with you to eliminate and mitigate these concerns.

My largest concern is in regards to the exercise as a whole. Because our local economy is largely based on tourism and tourist services, we have been affected more than most other metropolitan areas. The current unemployment rate in Clark County is almost 14 percent. I am concerned about the impact that the NLE will have on our local economy. Simulating the detonation of a nuclear device in Las Vegas will garner significant media attention from outlets around the world and I am deeply concerned about the impact of this attention. Imagine the optics of a "survivor"

PAGE 2

of a “nuclear attack” walking on the Strip? It would be a shame if even one tourist cancels a visit to our great city because of this exercise.

I am also deeply concerned about the cost of the NLE for our first responders. Like most agencies, our local emergency services have been forced to stretch every dollar of funding in order to provide the services required by our communities. I have been informed by many of these agencies that they will not receive reimbursement from the federal government for costs incurred during the NLE, including overtime and supplies.

I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dina Titus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress